

State of Mississippi

Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce

Agriculture Fact Sheet Beekeeping 2015



- Mississippi has 12 full-time commercial beekeepers, 30-40 part-time honey producers, and 800 hobbyists.
- Net annual income of Mississippi beekeepers from honey and beeswax production, sale of packaged bees and queens, and pollination fees is estimated to be between \$2.1 and \$3.1 million.
- Mississippi produces about 2.25 million pounds of honey each year.
- There are between 20 and 30 thousand colonies in the state during the summer and 80-120 thousand during the winter.
- Some 15-20 non-resident beekeepers bring about 20,000 colonies to Mississippi each winter, divide them into 50,000 to 80,000 bee colonies, and transport them back to the northern states each May/June.
- Each hive has a colony including one queen bee, several hundred drones (male bees), and 60,000 workers. All worker bees are female.
- Honeybees contribute a value exceeding \$200 million annually by the pollination of fruits, berries, vegetables, cotton, soybeans, vegetables, peanuts and wild plants in Mississippi.
- About one third of the human diet can be contributed directly or indirectly to honey bee pollination.
- Honey is defined as the sweet substance produced by honeybees from the nectar of blossoms or from secretions of living plants. The bees collect, transform and store the honey in honey combs.
- Honey has been discovered in ancient tombs and was still edible.
- Honey doesn't spoil from bacteria if packaged properly. However, it will ferment if the moisture content is too high and it is not well sealed.
- To make one pound of honey, it takes about 30,000 trips and 50,000 miles of flying. In one hour's trip, a worker bee may visit 50 flowers.

Source: Mississippi State University & USDA-NASS



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